GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2569
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
RADIOACTIVITY INDUCED AILMENTS
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jaduguda(Jharkhan

(d) tribals are suffering from various ailments due to the emitting of the radio-activity from the mines of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) No, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), at present operates three underground uranium mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar, and a mill at Jaduguda for processing the ore from all the mines for recovering uranium. All these facilities are located in the East Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State. UCIL has put in place measures necessary for radiological safety and the radiation levels at Jaduguda (Jharkhand) and in the surrounding areas are well within the permissible limits laid down for the purpose by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board(AERB). In addition, for the systematic and effective monitoring of radiation levels in and around the mines/mills, a well equipped Health Physics Unit-cum-Environmental Survey Laboratory of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre(BARC), which is independent of UCIL, has been in operation at Jaduguda since the inception of UCIL. The scientists of this Unit, qualified and trained in the field of radiological safety and protection, regularly measure the radioactivity in the area, maintain constant surveillance on environmental releases and undertake measuresments of pollutants in the atmospheric and aquatic systems of the environment in and around Jaduguda.

Surveys conducted in the past by teams of medical doctors and specialists including doctors from the Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur and Health Department of the Government of Bihar and Health Physicists and medical officers from BARC, have also established that the specific cases of diseases examined by the teams have no relation to radiation. Recent radiation survey of the area around Jaduguda has also reconfirmed that the operations of UCIL have not resulted in any increase in the background radiation levels beyond those prescribed by AERB.

Appropriate mechanisms are already in place to ensure the safety of mine workers. The radiation levels in and around Jaduguda on account of releases from mines/plants of UCIL are regularly monitored and are found to be within the limits prescribed in this behalf by the AERB which are, in turn based on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.